- The most common reported patterns of substance use are, in order, use of no substances (63%), use of marijuana alone (16%), use of alcohol in combination with marijuana (12%), use of alcohol alone (4%), and combinations of drugs in addition to alcohol, marijuana, and/or cocaine (4%).
- Nearly two-thirds (63%) of the sample used no drugs (excluding tobacco) in the seventy-two hours preceding arrest, just under one in five (18%) used only drugs, while about one in seven (15%) used both alcohol and drugs in this time period. This pattern of substance use is very different than that in the adult SANTA arrestee sample, where alcohol use was nearly ubiquitous and the use of drugs alone -- in particular, marijuana alone -- was not nearly as common.
- Lifetime use of various substances by age of juvenile arrestees shown in Figure 49 suggests peaks in use differ by drug with a trend toward early onset of use of alcohol and marijuana (initiation at age 13 or less), later onset of crack/cocaine and hallucinogen use (initiation at age 15 or older) and early "pill" taking i.e. uppers, downers and benzodiazepines with use initiated at between 14 and 16 years of age.
- There are several interesting patterns of substance use by age. First, the use of crack, cocaine, benzodiazepines, and barbiturates and other "downers" remains at low levels throughout all ages of juvenile arrestees. On the other hand, the proportion of juvenile arrestees using alcohol and marijuana starts high, increases at early ages then seems to level off. These patterns are very different than among adult arrestees. They suggest that most adolescent arrestees are not experimenting with substances other than alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana. Therefore, the much more extensive use of all drugs by older arrestees, that was reported in the adult SANTA arrestee report, must either develop at later ages in the criminal lifecycle or must be limited to cohorts of older arrestees in Tennessee.
- White females and white males have a higher proportion reporting proximate use of alcohol (23%-24%) and proximate use of marijuana is higher among white females (40%) and non-white males (35%) than other gender-race groups. This is in striking contrast to findings for adult SANTA arrestees. Among adult arrestees, alcohol and marijuana use are much more prevalent among men than among women.
- Two other gender-race patterns of substance use are worth noting. First, proximate
 use of crack/cocaine among juvenile SANTA arrestees is essentially restricted to
 non-white males only. Second, proximate use of barbiturates and other "downers"
 among this group is restricted to whites.
- The combination of lifetime alcohol <u>and</u> other drug use was prevalent among juveniles arrested in all charge categories particularly youth offenses (77%), alcohol-related offenses (71%), violent crimes (70%), other offenses (61%), and